

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES

REF: A) PEKING 0681 B) STATE 089504

1. DURING MAY 7 CALL ON CHENG CHI-HUNG AT MFA ANDERSON TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTION OF TIMING FOR AGRICULTURAL STUDY DELEGATION, NOTING THAT AUGUST VISIT POSSIBLE BUT CSCPRC UNABLE TO GIVE FIRM ANSWER UNTIL SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF GROUP SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL. MISS CHENG SAID THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION IS WORKING ON DETAILED PROPOSALS NOW AND SHE HOPES TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION SOON. SHE SAID SPONSORING ORGANIZATION FEELS THAT LATE AUGUST MIGHT BE PREFERABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD ENABLE GROUP TO MEET WITH AMERICAN AGRONOMY DELEGATION--TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST--IN PEKING PRIOR TO CHINESE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

2. ANDERSON ALSO MENTIONED CONFUSION OVER WORLD AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION POINTING OUT THAT THIS WAS GROUP REFERRED TO IN AUGUST 9, 1973 LETTER TO CHOU CHIU-YEH AND CONSISTED OF A NUMBER OF PRIVATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS GROUPS. MISS CHENG RESPONDED THAT CONFUSION RESULTED IN PART FROM FACT THAT ORIGINAL PROPOSAL HAD BEEN FOR COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS ONLY AND CHINESE UNSURE WHAT OTHER
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ORGANIZATIONS NOW CONTEMPLATED. MISS CHENG AGAIN RAISED

POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT, BUT ANDERSON REPLIED ONLY THAT THIS INFORMATION REPORTED TO WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: FROM MISS CHENG'S STATEMENT IT APPEARS THAT ONE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD AFFAIRS ORGANIZATIONS DELEGATION MAY BE CHINESE CONCERN THAT AN ORGANIZATION UNACCEPTABLE TO THEM WILL BE INCLUDED. AT MINIMUM PRC WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO CHECK OUT EACH ORGANIZATION'S STAND ON VARIOUS ISSUES BEFORE AGREEING TO HAVE ITS MEMBERS INCLUDED IN DELEGATION. DEPARTMENT OR NATIONAL COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO CLARIFY THIS PROBLEM WITH CHINESE. BRUCE

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